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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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83-1599

May 11, 1983

Executive Registry

83-2579

Mr. John N. McMahon
Deputy Director of Central
Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. McMahon:

Senator Inouye has proposed that the Select Committee on Intelligence conduct hearings on United States intelligence collection and support activities in Central America. These hearings would include an overall assessment by the intelligence community on the political and military situation in the region. We agree that it would be valuable for the Select Committee to hear testimony on these matters.

Our government's intelligence collection and support activities represent an important involvement in, and commitment to, the countries of Central America. These activities should be carefully considered by members of the Committee. An overall presentation of current intelligence and intelligence analysis would also enable our members to assess conditions in Central America better, as well as to evaluate the quality of intelligence products on the region.

We request your participation, therefore, at a hearing of the Committee to be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 25, 1983, in Room S-407 of the Capitol. The plan of the hearing is detailed in the attachment. You should be prepared, in coordination with the other witnesses, to address issues in the hearing plan which are related to the responsibilities of your organization.

Mr. John N. McMahon
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We look forward to hearing from you on these important and timely matters. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us or have your staff contact Dan Finn (224-1759) of the Committee staff.

Sincerely,



Barry Goldwater
Chairman



Daniel P. Moynihan
Vice Chairman

Attachment

PLAN FOR A HEARING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
ON
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Information on political and military developments in the countries of Central America is available in a variety of reports produced by the intelligence community. Similarly, the extent of U.S. intelligence collection and support activities in the region can be determined from detailed analysis of budgetary submissions and other planning documents furnished to the Select Committee on Intelligence. The Committee has not recently, however, received from the intelligence community an integrated assessment of the political/military situation in the region nor a composite description of related U.S. intelligence collection and support activities.

A general assessment of military and political developments in Central America, based on available intelligence, is important to the formulation of U.S. policy toward the region. An overall description of U.S. intelligence collection and support activities would help the Committee, and the Senate, to evaluate the appropriateness of the level and scope of such activities. It would also allow members to judge whether these activities tend to implicate American officials or forces too closely with military developments in the region, possibly leading the United States into

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further security commitments there. These needs are distinct from the submission to the Congress of necessary information on any covert action plans by the Administration, when these are undertaken to supplement other intelligence activities and implement U.S. foreign policy objectives.

As the situation in Central America continues to evolve, the Congress should have before it a clear view of the internal and external security situation of the nations of the region, and the level and type of U.S. intelligence collection and support activities focused on regional problems. In order to meet these requirements, the Committee would like to receive testimony on the following subjects from officials of the intelligence community:

I. Intelligence Assessment of the Political/Military Situation in Central America

A. Military Prospects in El Salvador

1. Number of active guerrillas;
2. Extent of the mass base of insurgent organizations;
3. Effectiveness and resiliency of insurgent political organization;
4. Stability of the Salvadoran government and its effect on the government's ability to resist the insurgency.

B. Arms Sources and Supply Arrangements for the Salvadoran Insurgents

1. Supply routes and methods for insurgent arms;
2. Sources of insurgent arms, especially U.S.S.R. and Cuban connection;
3. Magnitude of arms supply and effectiveness of regional efforts to interdict it.

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- C. Prospects for Military Conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua
 - 1. Current relative military potential of Honduras and Nicaragua;
 - 2. Deployments along the Honduran/Nicaraguan border;
 - 3. Political probability of military clash and factors that would tend to make it more likely or avoid it.
- D. Effect of continued conflict in the region on political stability and military security in Costa Rica
- E. Summary of the political and military situation in Guatemala, with special reference to the prospects for a return to democratic government and improvement of the human rights situation.

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PROPOSED WITNESSES AND ORDER OF APPEARANCE

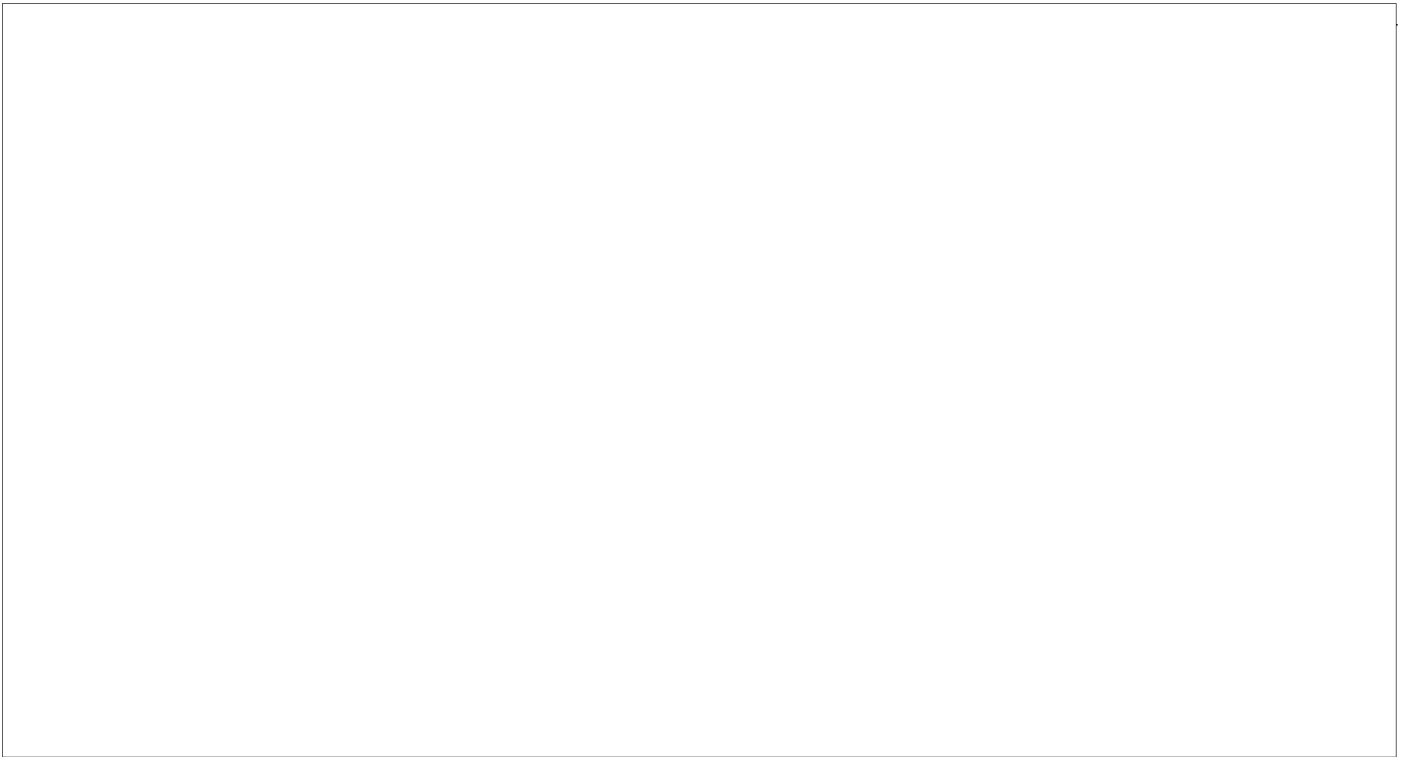
✓ (1) Deputy Director of Central Intelligence:

Summary of U.S. intelligence on situation in Central America and the intelligence community's response to developments in the region.

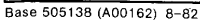
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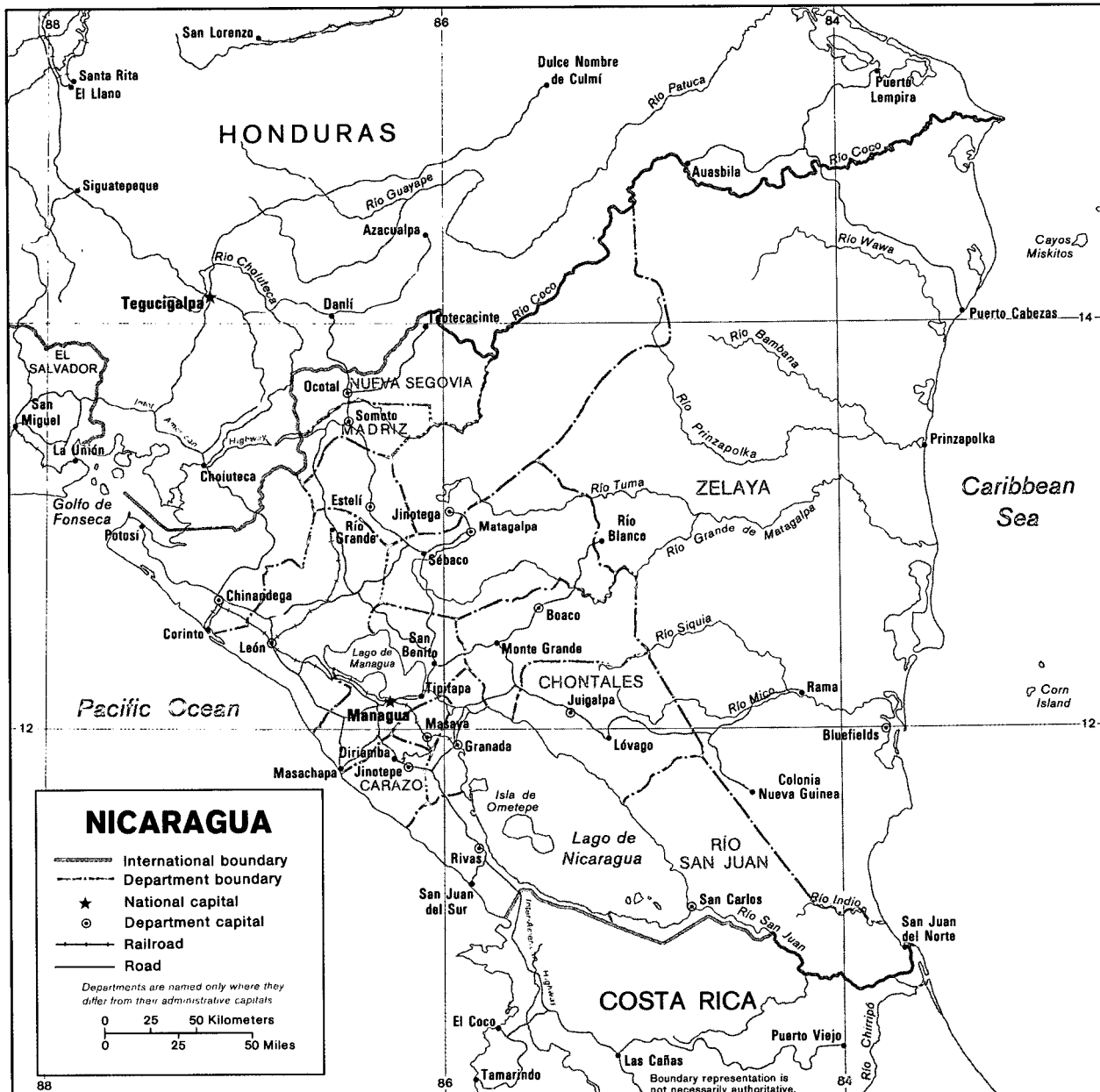
✓ (2) National Intelligence Officer, Latin America:

Integrated intelligence assessment of the political/military situation in Central America. STAT



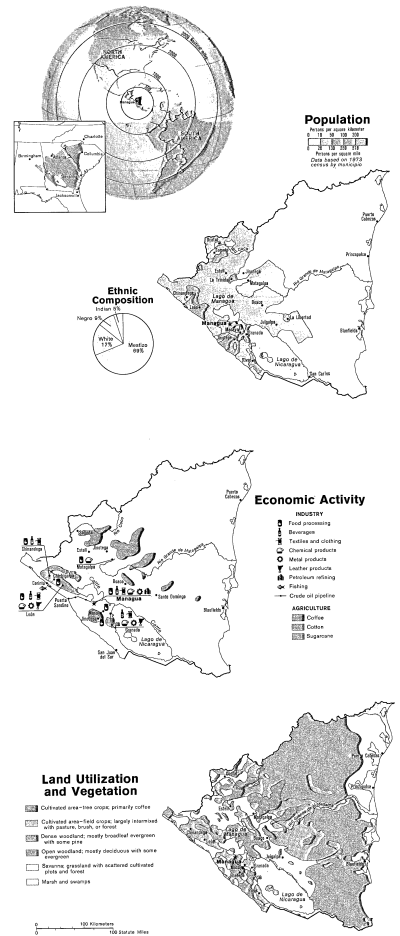
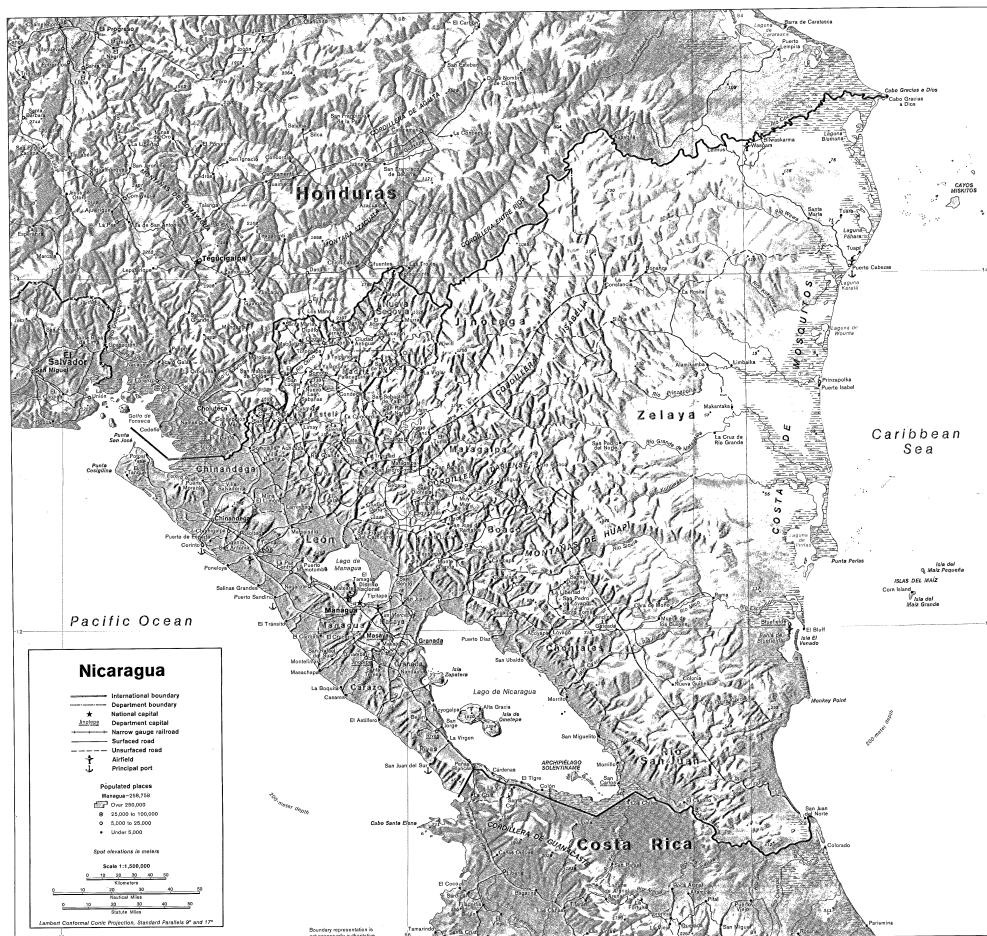
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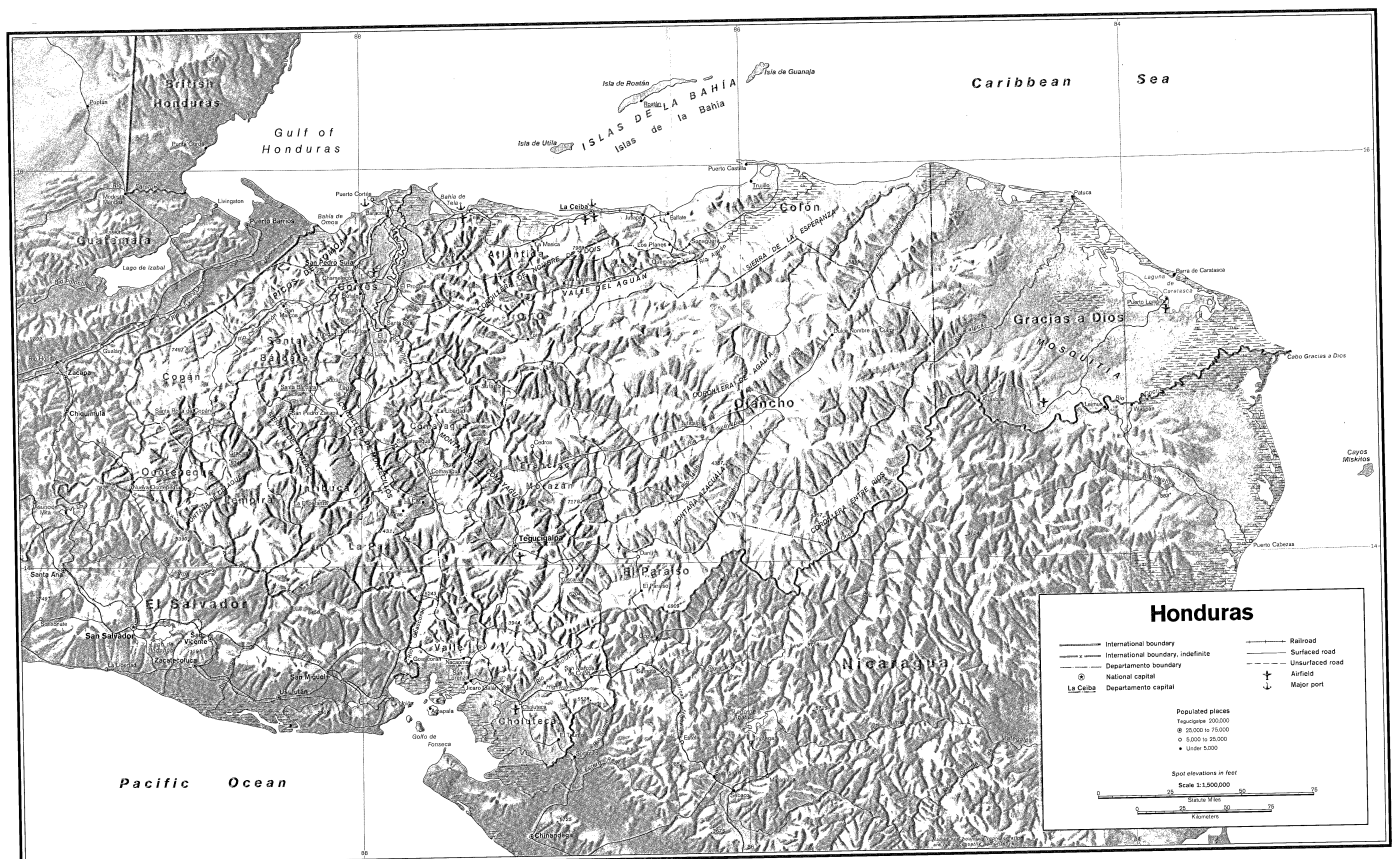
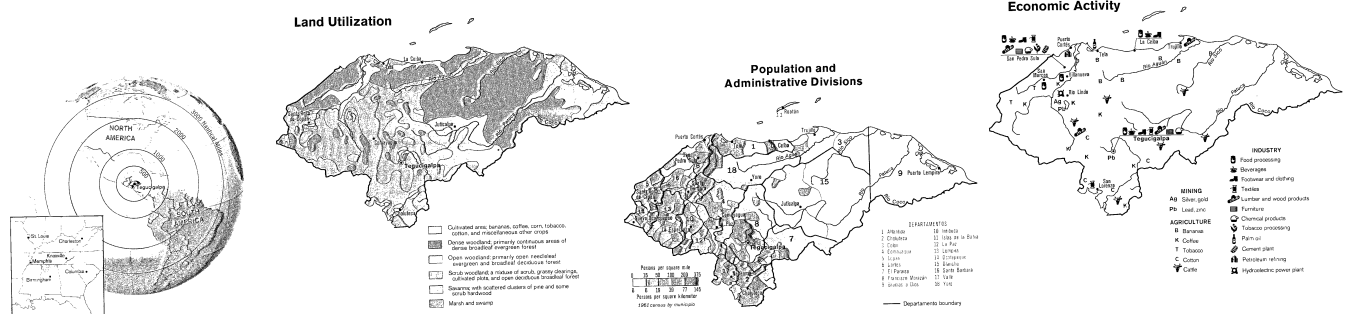


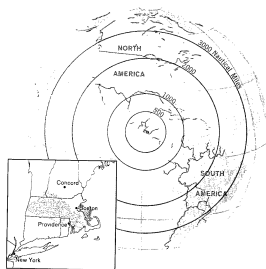


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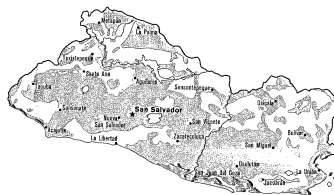
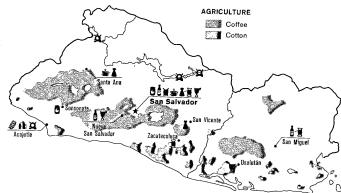






Economic Activity

- INDUSTRY**
- Food processing
 - Vegetable oil processing
 - Sugar refining
 - Coffee processing
 - Footwear and clothing
 - Textiles
 - Leather goods, tanning
 - Cement
 - Petroleum refining
 - Power generating
- AGRICULTURE**
- Coffee
 - Cotton



Vegetation and Land Use

- Cultivated area—coffee, cotton, sugarcane, cereals, and fiber crops
- Dense woodland—mainly broadleaf evergreen with some pine
- Mainly deciduous brush, grassland and pasture
- Mangrove swamp

0 50 Kilometers
0 50 Statute Miles

Ethnic Composition



Population

Population in thousands
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580 590 600 610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800 810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560 1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100 2110 2120 2130 2140 2150 2160 2170 2180 2190 2200 2210 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